Message Text

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PASS EXIMBANK

EO 11652N/A DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT TAGS: EFIN PL SUBJ: RCA SEEKS EXIM LOAN FOR SALE OF SEMI-CONDUCTORS FOR COLOR TELEVISION PROJECT

REF: 76 WARSAW 4137

- 1. BILL DEAN, RCA REPRESENTATIVE STATIONED IN GENEVA,
 CALLED EMBASSY OFFICERS ON FEBRUARY 9 TO EXPRESS
 HOPE THAT EXIM WILL ACT FAVORABLY ON A BANK HANDLOWY
 REQUEST FOR EXIM FINANCING OF THE SALE OF \$7 MILLION IN
 EQUIPMENT, LICENSES, AND "KNOW-HOW" FOR THE MANUFACTURE IN
 POLAND OF SEMI-CONDUCTOR COMPONENTS FOR COLOR TELEVISION SETS.
 HE SAID RCA ALREADY HAS CONCLUDED THE CONTRACT FOR THIS SALE,
 BUT THE AGREEMENT IS CONDITIONED ON OBTAINING FINANCING.
- 2. DEAN HOPED THIS LOAN COULD BE CONSIDERED AS
 AN EXTENSION OF THE EXIM CREDIT PROVIDED IN MAY 1976. HE SAID
 THE TWO PROJECTS WERE INTIMATELY ASSOCIATED, AND HE WAS
 CONCERNED THAT THIS APPLICATION, IF TREATED SEPARATELY,
 MIGHT NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR A PROJECT LOAN BY EXIM,
 SINCE THE SALE WOULD BE FOR ONLY \$7 MILLION. IF THIS WERE
 THE CASE, HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER COMMERCIAL BANK FINANCING
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WOULD BE ADEQUATE.

3. TREUMANN OF BANK HANDLOWY BELIEVES THIS LOAN SHOULD BE HANDLED AS AN INCREASE IN THE CREDIT LINE ALREADY GRANTED FOR THE COLOR TV PLANT. BANK HANDLOWY, HE EXPLAINED, WAS TREATING THESE TWO CONTRACTS UNDER THE SAME PROJECT HEADING AND UNDER ONE TOTAL ALLOCATION OF

FUNDS. WHEN ASKED BY AN EMBASSY OFFICER IF BANK HANDLOWY WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER AN EXIM GUARANTEE FOR COMMERCIAL CREDITS FOR THE \$7 MILLION, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF RELATIVELY LOW INTEREST RATES IN THE US AT THIS TIME, TREUMANN SAID NO. HE ADDED THE POLES WOULD HAVE TO "RECONSIDER" IF AN EXIM CREDIT COULD NOT BE OBTAINED.

4. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE POLISH TECHNICAL AGENCIES HAVE ALWAYS CONSIDERED THE SEMI-CONDUCTOR DEAL TO BE PART OF THE OVERALL COLOR TV PROJECT. IN DEALING WITH THE GOP'S CENTRAL TRADE AND FINANCE AUTHORITIES. THE TECHNICAL PEOPLE PROBABLY WERE USING THE STANDARD LOCAL TECHNIQUE OF FIRST GETTING AUTHORIZATION FOR THE BULK OF THE PROJECT AND LATER COMING BACK FOR APPROVAL OF SMALLER ADD-ONS, WHICH, IF THEY HAD BEEN INCLUDED ORIGINALLY, MIGHT HAVE CAUSED THE WHOLE DEALY TO BE TURNED DOWN. MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE OLSZEWSKI, HAS COMPLAINED ABOUT THE RESORT TO THIS TECHNIQUE IN THE COLOR TV PROJECT (REF). SINCE THE USE OF THE "SLICING" TECHNIQUE WORKED, IN FAVOR OF US EXPORTERS IN THIS CASE. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF EXIMBANK COULD FIND SOME WAY OF ADDING THE SEMI-CONDUCTOR CREDIT TO THE ORIGINAL LOAN. END COMMENT. DAVIES

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